# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

## State of Georgia

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## Georgia

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

## Demographics 1

- Population: 8,560,310 (July 2002 estimate); 8,186,453 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 62.6% white; 28.5% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.1% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 1.1% two or more races; 5.3% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)

#### **Politics**

- ➤ Governor: Sonny Perdue<sup>2</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Mark Taylor<sup>3</sup>
- ➤ Attorney General: Thurbert E. Baker<sup>4</sup>
- > Secretary of State: Cathy Cox<sup>5</sup>
- ➤ U.S. Senate: Saxby Chambliss (R), Zell B. Miller (D)<sup>6</sup>
- ➤ U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-13, respectively): Jack Kingston; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; Jim Marshall; Denise Majette; John Lewis; Johnny Isakson; John Linder; Mac Collins; Charlie Norwood; Nathan Deal; Phil Gingrey; Max Burns; David Scott<sup>7</sup>
- Capital: Atlanta<sup>8</sup>

## **Programs/Initiatives**

➤ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>9</sup>
Designated in 1995, the Atlanta HIDTA serves the city of Atlanta and Fulton and DeKalb Counties.

#### Federal Funding

- ➤ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees in Georgia:<sup>10</sup>
  - FY 2002: \$100.000 to Memorial Health Trust. Savannah
  - FY 2001:
    - \$54,591 to the Action Community Team, Inc., Toccoa
    - \$100,000 to the Augusta-Richmond County Community Partnership, Augusta
    - \$99,229 to the Bulloch County Board of Education, Statesboro
  - FY 2000: \$59,125 to the Genesis Prevention Coalition, Inc., Atlanta
  - FY 1999:
    - \$100,000 to the Cobb Community Collaborative, Inc., Marietta
    - \$99,999 to the DeKalb Prevention Alliance, Inc., Decatur
  - FY 1998: \$100,000 to the Wholistic Stress Control Institute, Inc., Atlanta
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>11</sup>

There are currently nine sites in Georgia that have been officially recognized and received Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites: Albany, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, East Point, Macon, Savannah, Valdosta, and Waycross.

- > FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary for Georgia: 12
  - Formula Funding \$60,152,065
    - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant \$46,420,319
    - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant \$12,328,323
    - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) \$698,000
    - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant \$705,423
  - Discretionary Funding \$7,998,760
    - Mental Health \$4,241,675
    - Substance Prevention \$1,294,228
    - Substance Abuse Treatment \$2,462,857
  - Total Mental Health Funds: \$17,973,421
  - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$50,177,404
  - Total Funds for Georgia: \$68,150,825
- > FY 2003 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Georgia: \$13,458,353<sup>13</sup>
- ➤ FY 1996-2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Georgia:
  - FY 1996: \$754,766<sup>14</sup>
  - FY 1997: \$819.727<sup>15</sup>
  - FY 1998: \$1,753,951<sup>16</sup>
  - FY 1999: \$1,715,429<sup>17</sup>
  - FY 2000: \$1,789,168<sup>18</sup>
  - FY 2001: \$1,817,918<sup>19</sup>
  - FY 2002: \$2,067,661<sup>20</sup>
  - FY 2003: \$1.927.091<sup>21</sup>
- There were no Georgia recipients of the FY 2002 Drug Courts Grant Program. 22
- ➤ FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant amounts received in Georgia: <sup>23</sup>
  - \$222,222 to the Gainesville Police Department
- > FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant amounts received in Georgia:<sup>24</sup>
  - \$200,000 to Bedford Pines Apartments, Atlanta
  - \$124,913 to Cumberland Oaks Apartments, St. Marys

## **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- ➤ During FY 2002, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation participated in 14 drug-related multi-jurisdictional task forces throughout Georgia. As a result of task force efforts, 4,040 investigations were initiated and 2,618 drug offenders were arrested. <sup>25</sup>
- ➤ During 2001, there were 549 murders known to police in Georgia. This is up from 496 murders in 2000. <sup>26</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Georgia, 1997-2001

Offense	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Murder	533	590	556	496	549
Rape	2,155	2,231	2,146	1,683	2,044
Robbery	14,182	14,140	12,575	11,715	13,577
Aggravated assault	24,367	25,632	24,145	21,463	22,930
Total violent crime	41,237	42,593	39,422	35,357	39,100
Burglary	74,682	73,335	67,645	57,987	66,646
Larceny	239,454	246,157	235,688	204,026	233,570
Motor vehicle theft	41,042	41,789	38,663	33,895	36,460
Total property crime	355,178	361,281	341,996	295,908	326,676
Total index crime	396,415	403,874	381,418	331,265	365,776

➤ There were 396 arrests for murder in Georgia during 2001. <sup>27</sup>

Number of Index Offense Arrests, Georgia, 1997-2001

Offense	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Murder	673	520	519	497	396
Rape	830	663	655	569	549
Robbery	3,775	3,051	2,906	2,829	3,009
Aggravated assault	14,458	13,105	11,658	11,855	11,251
Total violent crime	19,736	17,339	15,738	15,750	15,205
Burglary	8,937	8,077	7,582	7,039	6,738
Larceny	39,384	34,974	32,993	30,880	30,104
Motor vehicle theft	4,536	3,510	3,152	3,493	2,754
Total property crime	52,857	46,561	43,727	41,412	39,596
Total index crime	72,593	63,900	59,465	57,162	54,801

➤ The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made 804 drug violation arrests in Georgia during 2001. <sup>28</sup>

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Georgia, 1997-2001

Year	Arrests
1997	1,012
1998	1,267
1999	1,497
2000	1,092
2001	804

## **Drugs**

## > Cocaine

Cocaine, particularly crack, represents the principal drug threat to Georgia. Powder cocaine is often abused in Georgia raves, nightclubs, and bars. Some area crack users dissolve the drug and then inject it. These users are typically either current or former heroin abusers. Wholesale crack distributors sometimes sell "cookies," crack formed

into patties that measure approximately 3" in diameter. Each cookie sells for \$900-\$1,000. During 2001, powder cocaine sold for \$14,000-\$19,000/kilogram and \$70-\$100/gram. Crack sold for \$20-\$40/rock. Both forms of cocaine sold for \$800-\$1,000/ounce. During 2000, retail levels of powder cocaine ranged in purity from 18% to 90%, and crack purity ranged from 7% to 90%. <sup>29</sup>

#### > Heroin

Georgia's heroin threat is typically limited to Atlanta and other large cities. 30

## Marijuana

Marijuana is the most widely available illicit drug in Georgia. Most of the marijuana found in the state is produced in Mexico, although marijuana produced in Colombia, Jamaica, within the state and from surrounding states is also available. In 2001, Mexican marijuana sold for \$600-\$1,500/pound. In 2002, marijuana in Georgia sold for \$100-\$350/ounce and \$10-\$20/gram. <sup>31</sup>

## > Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine poses an increasing threat to Georgia, especially in the northern and central areas. It has emerged as the primary drug threat in parts of northern Georgia. <sup>32</sup>

According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 47% of Georgia citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.<sup>33</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Georgia, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	8.82%	15.09%	4.35%	6.28%
Past month use of marijuana	5.89	12.01	2.91	4.45
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	4.61	6.63	1.80	2.75
Past year cocaine use	1.20	4.80	1.33	1.79
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	38.18	31.24	51.35	47.24

According to 2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1.20% of Georgia citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.<sup>34</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Dependence, Georgia, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.05%	3.00%	0.76%	1.20%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.08	4.84	1.16	1.96
Alcohol dependence	1.36	4.03	2.39	2.50
Alcohol dependence or abuse	3.93	11.42	4.02	5.01
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	6.78	13.29	4.85	6.19

#### Juveniles

There were 47 juvenile arrests for murder in Georgia during 2001. This is down from 83 in 2000. 35

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, Georgia, 1997-2001

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Murder/non- negl. mansl.	103	51	79	83	47
Forcible rape	131	94	83	91	76
Robbery	743	492	488	463	575
Aggravated assault	1,462	1,385	1,168	1,229	1,225
Burglary	2,405	2,220	2,059	1,880	1,994
Larceny	8,799	8,307	7,797	7,695	7,333
Motor vehicle theft	1,182	1,017	889	923	830
Other assaults	4,848	5,002	5,079	4,664	5,310
DUI	690	708	652	456	474
Liquor laws	1,832	1,946	1,629	1,522	1,312
Drunkenness	182	205	171	190	181
Total all offenses	49,927	49,029	47,046	45,323	47,145

<sup>➤</sup> During 2001, there were 2,187 juvenile arrests for marijuana possession in Georgia. <sup>36</sup>

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Georgia, 1997-2001

Offense	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Sale/Manufacturing					
Opium/cocaine & derivatives	387	373	304	225	167
Marijuana	362	315	386	350	360
Synthetic narcotics	29	15	20	26	37
Other dang. non-narc. drugs	116	141	121	133	101
Possession					
Opium/cocaine & derivatives	1,012	810	711	618	488
Marijuana	2,530	2,537	2,228	2,301	2,187
Synthetic narcotics	52	45	33	49	74
Other dang. non-narc. drugs	51	71	78	80	108

#### **Enforcement**

- ➤ The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Drug Enforcement Investigative Division consists of Regional Drug Enforcement Offices, multi-jurisdictional task forces, and the Governor's Task Force on Drug Suppression. <sup>37</sup>
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 30,029 full-time law enforcement employees in Georgia. 38

## **Trafficking and Seizures**

- ➤ Georgia, particularly Atlanta, is a significant drug distribution center in the southeastern United States. <sup>39</sup>
- ➤ Criminal groups typically transport drugs into and through Georgia using the state's highway system. However, the state's 2 international airports (in Atlanta and Savannah), 109 county and municipal airports, and 2 deepwater ports (in Savannah and Brunswick) are also used to smuggle drugs. 40

- ➤ Hispanic criminal groups, primarily Mexican, are the principal transporters of illicit drugs available in Georgia. 41
- During 2002, Federal agencies seized 401 kilograms of cocaine in Georgia. 42

Federal Drug Seizures, Georgia, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized (kgs.)
Cocaine	401.3
Heroin	1.1
Methamphetamine	105.3
Marijuana	992

➤ There were 110 methamphetamine labs seized by the DEA and state and local law enforcement in Georgia during 2002. 43

Number of Methamphetamine Labs Seized, Georgia, 1996-2002

Year	# of Labs Seized
1996	5
1997	9
1998	6
1999	27
2000	54
2001	51
2002	110

➤ In 2002, more than 75,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated and seized in Georgia under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. 44

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Georgia, 2002

I	Outdoor Operations		Indoor	<b>Indoor Operations</b>	
		Cultivated			Total
	Plots	<b>Plants</b>	Grows	<b>Plants</b>	<b>Plants</b>
	Eradicated	Eradicated	Seized	Eradicated	<b>Eradicated</b>
ſ	476	75,259	8	511	75,770

- During FY 2002, the Governor's Task Force on Drug Suppression (GTF) conducted 145 marijuana eradication missions in 62 Georgia counties. As a result of the GTF missions, 56,693 marijuana plants were seized worth a street value of \$136 million.
- ➤ In FY 2002, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces seized drugs valued at \$28,125,860. 46
- ➤ Georgia law enforcement seized currency valued at \$1.07 million as part of Operation Pipeline efforts and nearly \$1.06 million as part of Operation Jetway efforts in 2001.<sup>47</sup>

#### Courts

- ➤ Drug Courts<sup>48</sup>
  As of May 2003, there were 6 drug courts in Georgia that had been operating for more than 2 years, 7 that were recently implemented and 5 that were being planned.
- ➤ During FY 2001, 39.5% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Georgia were charged with drug offenses. Crack cocaine was involved in nearly 33% (185) of the drug offenses. <sup>49</sup>

Federally-Sentenced Drug Defendants, Georgia, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	Percent
Crack cocaine	185	32.8%
Powder cocaine	126	22.3
Methamphetamine	104	18.4
Marijuana	103	18.3
Heroin	23	4.1
Other	23	4.1

#### Corrections

➤ As of May 2003, there were 36,004 state prison inmates in Georgia. <sup>50</sup>

Number of Active Inmates, Georgia, May 2003

Institution	# of Inmates	% of Total
State prison	36,004	76%
County camps	4,952	10
Private prisons	4,587	10
Transitional centers	900	2
Inmate boot camps	617	1

Eight percent (3,729) of the active prisoners (excluding jails) had drug sales offenses as their most serious crime committed.<sup>51</sup>

Most Serious Crime Committed by Prisoners, Georgia, May 2003

Crime Type	# of Prisoners	% of Total
Violent/person	21,099	45%
Non-violent/person	221	0
Property	10,224	22
Drug sales	3,729	8
Drug possession	3,501	7
Alcohol	0	0
Habitual/DUI	374	1
Sex offender	6,294	13
Other	1,802	4

Approximately 19% of active Georgia prisoners in May 2003 were diagnosed as drug abusers. Eight percent reported drug abuse within their families. <sup>52</sup>

Approximately 5% of the active offender population in June 2003 had committed a cocaine possession offense. <sup>53</sup>

Drug Offenders, by Most Serious Offense, Georgia, June 2003

Most Serious Offense	Number	Percent of Total		
Conspiracy to traffic controlled substance	3	0.01%		
Illegal attempt to obtain drugs	14	0.03		
Illegal distribution of controlled substance	0	0.0		
Miscellaneous drug trafficking	470	0.98		
Possession depressant, stimulant, cntrf. drug	284	0.59		
Possession drug-related material	4	0.01		
Possession cocaine	2,561	5.32		
Possession LSD	8	0.02		
Possession marijuana	358	0.74		
Possession narcotics/opiates	350	0.73		
Sale/distribution controlled substance – public	102	0.21		
Sale/distribution controlled substance – school	40	0.08		
Sale/distribution cocaine	1,963	4.07		
Sale/distribution depress., stim., cntrf. drug	135	0.28		
Sale/distribution LSD	3	0.01		
Sale/distribution marijuana	303	0.63		
Sale/distribution narcotics/opiates	159	0.33		
Trafficking amphetamine 28-199 grams	16	0.03		
Trafficking amphetamine 200-399 grams	3	0.01		
Trafficking amphetamine 400 + grams	10	0.02		
Trafficking cocaine less than 200 grams	413	0.86		
Trafficking cocaine 201-400 grams	80	0.17		
Trafficking cocaine 401 + grams	136	0.28		
Trafficking marijuana 101-2,000 pounds	11	0.02		
Trafficking marijuana 2,000 + pounds	1	0.0		
Trafficking methaqualone < 400 grams	0	0.0		
Trafficking methaqualone > = 400 grams	0	0.0		
Trafficking narcotics less than 14 grams	1	0.0		
Trafficking narcotics 15-28 grams	2	0.0		
Trafficking narcotics 29 + grams	17	0.04		
Violation of Georgia controlled substances act	48	0.1		
Attempted violation of substances act	70	0.15		

<sup>➤</sup> In May 2003, more than 35,000 of Georgia's active probationers had committed drug possession offenses, representing 27% of the probation population. Seven percent (9,250) of the active probationers committed drug sales offenses.<sup>54</sup>

#### Treatment

- ➤ In 2002, there were 33,339 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Georgia. More than 5,000 of the clients (16.4% of all admissions) reported that smoked cocaine was their primary substance of abuse.<sup>55</sup>
- There were 36,773 admissions to treatment in Georgia during 2001. <sup>56</sup> This is up from 30.283 admissions in 2000.<sup>57</sup>

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Georgia. 2000-2002

Number of Admissions		00	2001		2002	
Drug Type	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	9,777	32.3%	10,387	28.2%	8,802	26.4%
Alc. w/ second. drug	3,491	11.5	4,331	11.8	4,143	12.4
Cocaine – smoked	4,985	16.5	6,147	16.7	5,477	16.4
Cocaine – other route	2,956	9.8	3,088	8.4	1,997	6.0
Marijuana	3,816	12.6	4,742	12.9	4,576	13.7
Heroin	535	1.8	717	1.9	622	1.9
Other opiates	350	1.2	677	1.8	715	2.1
PCP	1	0.0		0.0	4	0.0
Hallucinogens	37	0.1	56	0.2	40	0.1
Amphetamines	630	2.1	984	2.7	1,535	4.6
Other stimulants	15	0.0	21	0.1	19	0.1
Tranquilizers	236	0.8	262	0.7	298	0.9
Sedatives	34	0.1	40	0.1	35	0.1
Inhalants	37	0.1	45	0.1	32	0.1
Other/none specified	3,383	11.2	5,276	14.3	5,044	15.1
Total	30,283	100.0	36,773	100.0	33,339	100.0

#### Sources

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <a href="http://www.census.gov">http://www.census.gov</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Georgia Governor Web site: http://gov.state.ga.us/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Georgia Lt. Governor Web site: <a href="http://www.ltgov.state.ga.us/">http://www.ltgov.state.ga.us/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Georgia Attorney General Web site: <a href="http://www.ganet.org/ago/">http://www.ganet.org/ago/</a>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Georgia section:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2003 Byrne Formula Grant Program State Allocations: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/FY2003BYRNE.pdf

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.
<sup>17</sup> Ibid.
<sup>18</sup> Ibid.
<sup>19</sup> Ibid.
<sup>20</sup> Ibid.
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<sup>22</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants:
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<sup>26</sup> Georgia Bureau of Investigation, 2001 Summary Report: Uniform Crime Reporting Program:
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<sup>27</sup> Ibid.
<sup>28</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, Georgia State Factsheet: http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/georgia.html
<sup>29</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center and Drug Enforcement Administration, Georgia Drug Threat
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<sup>30</sup> Ibid.
<sup>31</sup> Ibid.
<sup>32</sup> Ibid.
<sup>33</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Estimates of Substance Use from the
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<sup>39</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center and Drug Enforcement Administration, Georgia Drug Threat
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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.
<sup>41</sup> Ibid.
<sup>42</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, Georgia State Factsheet: http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/georgia.html
<sup>43</sup> Ibid.
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Georgia Department of Corrections, Offender Statistics:

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